

Professor Newton, M.A., F.R.S., V.P., exhibited the skin of a bird supposed to be a hybrid between the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*) and the Ptarmigan (*L. mutus*), observing:—

“This remarkable specimen was lately given to me for the museum of the University of Cambridge by Capt. Houston, of Kintradwell, in Sutherland, having been shot there out of a covey of Grouse on the 1st of September, 1878. As will be seen, it bears some considerable resemblance, above, to a hen Ptarmigan in summer plumage; but its general appearance is much darker. Beneath, there is a greater resemblance to the young of the Red Grouse; and the primaries are much as in that bird, being, however, partially edged with white to a much greater extent than is commonly found in the latter. I have shown the skin to several ornithological friends, none of whom have been able to offer any other suggestion concerning it than that originally made by the donor, namely that it is a hybrid between the two species named; and in confirmation thereof, Capt. Houston told me that the part of his ground on which it was shot is close to a locality frequented by the Ptarmigan. Without having made an exhaustive search, I may say that I am not aware of any record of such a hybrid as this is supposed to be, though information received from several quarters induces me to believe that other examples have before now occurred; and my chief object in exhibiting the present specimen is to call attention to the subject.”

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The following papers were read:—

1. On a new Species of *Indicator*, with Remarks on other Species of the Genus. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received July 18, 1878.]

In an article which I sent to Mr. Dawson Rowley's 'Ornithological Miscellany' (vol. i. part iii.) I gave a revision of the Indicatoridæ, or family of Honey-Guides; and I am now able to add somewhat to the information there recorded.

INDICATOR CONIROSTRIS (Cass.): Sharpe in Rowley's Orn. Misc. vol. i. p. 196.

A few specimens of Honey-Guide having in the hasty packing away of my African collection become mislaid in another box, were not available when I wrote my paper on Indicatoridæ. Now that my collection has been added to the British Museum they have been discovered; and I was pleased to find among the missing birds a fine adult specimen of the present species from the interior of Fantee. It was sent to me by Governor Ussher in one of his last collections, and is the first example known from the Gold Coast. I find,

on comparing the two birds, that *I. conirostris* is a very distinct species from *I. minor*, having the head and back strongly washed with deep golden yellow, the centres of the feathers being blackish instead of pale brown as in *I. minor*. This contrast is especially seen in the wings, where the golden edgings to the black feathers stand out in bold relief, and make them very different from the appearance of the South-African species. The Fautee bird measures—total length 6 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 3·6, tail 2·6, tarsus 0·6.

INDICATOR ARCHIPELAGICUS (Temm.): Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 197; id. *Ibis*, 1877, p. 8.

As already recorded by me (*l. c.*) Mr. Alfred Everett procured a female specimen of this rare species at Bintulu, in North-western Borneo. Temminck's description is not very good; but the species is unmistakable from its yellow shoulder-spot.

INDICATOR EXILIS (Cass.): Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 198.

A specimen of this little Honey-Guide was sent recently from Landana, on the Congo, by M. Petit.

INDICATOR MALAYANUS, sp. n.

General colour above ashy, washed with olive-yellow, dimly on the head and mantle, the feathers of the back and wings more distinctly edged with olive-yellow, the primaries scarcely perceptibly margined; tail-feathers dark brown, edged indistinctly with olive-yellow, all but the two centre tail-feathers internally whity brown, increasing in extent towards the outermost, which is almost entirely whity brown, obliquely dark brown towards the tip; sides of face and ear-coverts dingy ash-colour with a very faint olive tinge; under surface of the body pale yellowish, creamy white on the chin and upper throat, abdomen, thighs, and under tail-coverts; the feathers of the breast and fore neck with mostly concealed greyish bases, imparting a somewhat mottled appearance; lower flanks mesially streaked with dark brown; under wing-coverts yellowish white, as also the edge of the wing; quills dark brown below, whitish along the edge of the inner web.

Total length 5·7 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 3·9, tail 2·45, tarsus 0·55.

The specimen from which the above description is taken was received by Mr. Henry Whitely, of Woolwich, in a large collection sent direct from Malacca along with the usual Malaccan birds. It cannot be the Himalayan species, *I. xanthonotus*, because the latter has the back and rump yellow; and it differs from the Bornean Honey-Guide (*I. archipelagicus*) in wanting the yellow shoulder-spot, grey breast, and flanks of the last-named bird, and in being altogether larger. This latter fact seems to prevent the possibility of its being considered a young bird of *I. archipelagicus*.

I propose the following amended key for the genus *Indicator*:—

